

SN 09/520,538

Docket No S-91,714

In Response to Office Action dated November 17, 2003

REMARKS

The re-assignment of this application to a different Examiner in Group 1652, and the withdrawal of previously entered objections and rejections, is acknowledged.

Previously pending claims 1 and 26 have been cancelled. Therefore, the rejections of these claims under 35 U.S.C. 103 are now moot.

Claims 1-26 are cancelled. Claims 27-29 are pending. Claims 27 and 28 are currently amended.

Claims 27-29 have been amended to comply with formalities noted in the objection under paragraph 9 of the November 17, 2003 Office Action to which this paper replies. More specifically, the Examiner stated: *"Claims 27-29 appear to be allowable over the prior art of record but are objected to since they depend upon a rejected base claim."* In reply, claims 27 and 28 have been amended to incorporate the body of independent (cancelled) claim 26, from which these two claims originally depended. In addition, correction of the informalities noted in the Office Action (paragraph 2), in respect of cancelled claim 26, have been incorporated into the amendments of claims 27 and 28 (insertion of two commas). Claim 29 depends from amended claim 27, as initially presented.

Applicants request entry of the foregoing amendments, which only comply with formal requirements noted in the outstanding Office Action, and which are therefore in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.116.

Applicants submit that claims 27-29, as amended, are in condition for allowance. Should additional informalities in these claims become apparent to the Examiner, the

SN 09/520,538

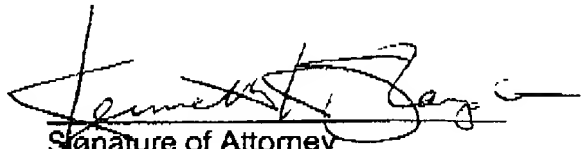
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undersigned invites the Examiner to contact him by telephone in order to expedite final disposition. Otherwise, an early indication of allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 03/16/04


Signature of Attorney

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